



## New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

**April 11, 2002**

Contact: Francis Rapa

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: [info@njpines.state.nj.us](mailto:info@njpines.state.nj.us)

### **Pinelands Growth Panel Discussion Set for April 24** *Public Forum to examine challenges faced by Regional Growth Communities*

NEW LISBON, NJ - The second of three Panel Discussions supporting the New Jersey Pinelands Commission's review of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, April 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, at the Pinelands Commission's Richard J. Sullivan Center in New Lisbon. The topic of the forum is Regional Growth Areas.

Regional Growth Areas are land management areas designated under the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan where residential, commercial and industrial development are both permitted and encouraged consistent with regional growth influences, and to support preservation of other areas within the Pinelands. The panel discussion will address the impacts of development pressures faced by the Regional Growth Communities as well as possible strategies for better meeting growth challenges.

The forum is an important part of the year-long CMP review, which began in January when Pinelands Commission Executive Director Annette M. Barbaccia submitted the Third Progress Report on Plan Implementation to the 15-member Pinelands Commission for review. The report examines the activities, programs and initiatives of the Pinelands Commission since the last review was completed five years ago, as well as since the Pinelands CMP was first implemented in 1980.

Regional Growth Area impact was identified as a priority issue by the Pinelands Commission for the CMP review. A third panel discussion on general issues will be scheduled for sometime in May.

"The March panel discussion on permanent land protection was remarkably successful and resulted in a lot of constructive feedback," said Pinelands Commissioner Candace McKee Ashmun. "The information and comments garnered from this process will go a long way in providing meaningful guidance to the Commission as we move forward with our review of CMP implementation."

## **Regional Growth Panel Discussion**

### **Page 2**

Approximately 20 representatives of both governmental and non-governmental organizations will participate on the panel. At present, representatives of the following organizations are scheduled to participate:

- Pinelands Preservation Alliance;
- Sierra Club, NJ Chapter;
- Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions;
- Casino Reinvestment and Development Authority;
- ISLES, Inc. (community development organization);
- Hamilton Township (Atlantic County);
- Stafford Township (Ocean County);
- Washington Township (Mercer County);
- New Jersey Builders Association;
- Builders League of South Jersey;
- American Society of Landscape Architects, NJ Chapter;
- NJ Department of Transportation, Division of Statewide Planning;
- NJ Office of State Planning;
- Atlantic County Department of Regional Planning & Development;
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission;
- Atlantic County Utilities Authority;
- Cahill Associates (environmental consultants);
- Clarke, Caton & Hintz (professional planners);
- Nelessen Associates (professional planners); and
- Ragan Design Group, Inc. (professional planners).

As with the previous panel discussion, there will also be opportunities for members of the public to raise questions and comments to the panelists. Input from the panel discussions, as well as any written comments submitted to the Commission, will be reviewed along with the information contained in the Progress Report to identify and develop possible CMP amendments or other actions to improve Pinelands protection and resource management programs.

“As we rapidly approach the midway point of our year-long review, it’s encouraging to see that the process is working well,” added Executive Director Barbaccia. “The cooperative approach that the Commission laid out for this process will prove invaluable in making a great program even better.”

The Richard J. Sullivan Center is located at 15-C Springfield Road, New Lisbon, NJ.

###